

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of October 9, 2007 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. However, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Claims Rejections – 35 USC § 102

In the Office Action, Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application 2003/0152203 to Berger, *et al.* (hereinafter Berger).

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections, Applicants have amended the claims so as to expedite prosecution of the present Application by emphasizing certain aspects of the invention. However, such amendments should not be interpreted as the surrender of any subject matter, and Applicants expressly reserve the right to present the original version of any of the amended claims in any future divisional or continuation applications from the present application.

Applicants have amended the claims to further emphasize certain aspects of the invention. As discussed herein, the claim amendments are fully supported throughout the Specification. No new matter has been introduced by the claim amendments.

Aspects of the Claims

It may be helpful to reiterate certain aspects recited in the claims prior to addressing the cited references. One aspect of the invention, as typified by amended Claim 1, is a method for remotely requesting information or services from a remote service server through a personal computing system.

The method can include: receiving, in the personal computing system, a telephone call from a user who is registered with the personal computing system and remotely located from the personal computing system; receiving a user spoken utterance over the telephone call; and speech recognizing the user spoken utterance to determine a request for information or a service. (See, e.g., steps 305, 330, and 335 of Fig. 3 and Specification, paragraphs [0037] and [0042].)

The method also can include formatting an electronic message according to the request, and sending the electronic message over a communications network to the remote service server. (See, e.g., steps 350 and 355 of Fig. 3 and Specification, paragraphs [0045] and [0046].)

The method further can include receiving content in the personal computing system from the remote service server, converting the content to speech audio in the personal computing system, and playing the audio to the user over the telephone call. (See, e.g., steps 360, 365, and 370 of Fig. 3 and Specification, paragraphs [0047] and [0048].)

The Claims Define Over The Prior Art

Berger concerns a method and system for accessing messages through a remote unified messaging (UM) server using the Internet or by telephone or fax. Berger's system is no more than a conventional remote message retrieving system through which a user can remotely access his or her own messages (such as voice messages on the home phone or email messages in his or her personal account).

In contrast, the present invention concerns a method and system for a user to request information or services (such as accessing Web portals, sending electronic mail or instant messaging) from a remote service server through his or her own personal home computer system. The personal home computer system acts as an intermediary between a

remote voice device used by the user and a remote service server in order to obtain information or services from the remote service server using voice commands. The user sends voice commands to the personal home computer system, which translates the voice commands into an electronic text message and sends it to a remote service server in order to obtain the requested information or service. The personal home computer system can then convert the obtained information into speech audio and plays the audio to the user over a phone connection. One advantage of the method and system of the present invention is that by allowing access to Web portals and other services such as electronic mail and instant messaging through a telephone, the need to subscribe to additional wireless and other paid services can be eliminated or at least minimized. See, e.g., Specification, paragraph [0006].

It can be seen from above that Berger and the present invention each pertain to entirely different subject matter. It is noted that certain paragraphs of Berger were cited in the rejections. However, no explanation was provided as to how these paragraphs are related to the respective features of the present invention.

Although applicants respectfully disagree with rejections, applicants have amended the independent claims in order to even more clearly define the present invention and facilitate the prosecution. The independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the cited art and since all the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on the independent claims, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

AKERMAN SENTERFITT

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/Richard A. Hinson/

Gregory A. Nelson, Registration No. 30,577
Richard A. Hinson, Registration No. 47,652
Yonghong Chen, Registration No. 56,150
Customer No. 40987
Post Office Box 3188
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3188
Telephone: (561) 653-5000